

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 AF-08 ARA-06

EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OIC-02

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO

SUBJECT: FAO WORKING PARTY ON RESTRUCTURING THE COUNCIL

SUMMARY: THE WORKING PARTY ON THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE FAO COUNCIL CONCLUDED ITS WORK ON APRIL 1 WITH A REPORT THAT IS MAINLY NOTEWORTHY FOR THE DISPARITY OF ITS VIEWS. NO MAJOR CHANGES WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING PARTY AS A WHOLE. VARYING MAJORITIES HOWEVER, SUGGESTED IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL CONFERENCES, INCREASES IN THE SIZE AND CHANGES IN THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES, THE ELECTION AND RENEWAL OF TERM OF DIRECTOR GENERAL, AND AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SEATS OF THE COUNCIL. END SUMMARY

1. A MAJORITY OF THE WORKING PARTY FELT THAT PARTICIPTION IN REGIONAL CONFERENCES SHOULD BE DECIDED BY MEMBER NATIONS THAT IN FACT BELONG TO A PRIVUR REGION, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SITUATION IN OTHER UN ORGAIZATIONS AND ANY SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REGION. OTHERS (U.S. AND OTHER) FELT REGIONAL CONFERENCES SHOULD REMIAN OPEN TO COUNTRIES WHICH WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMIC AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT IN A REGION.

2. THE SECTION ON INCREASING THE PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEE INDICATES SOME MEMBERS FAVORED THE STATUS QUO (U.S., AUSTRALIA, TUNISIA) WHILE THE MAJORITY FAVORED A MODERATE INCREASE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

(A) THE PROGRAMS AND FINANCE COMMITTEES SHOULD BE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER NATIONS ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT BEFORE ELECTIONS, GOVERNMENTS WOULD INDICATE THE NAME OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVE WITH A COMPLETE CURRICULUM VITAE.

(B) THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE SHOULD BE INCREASED BY FOUR, BRINGING THE TOTAL MEMEBERSHIP TO 11 INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN.

(C) THE NEMBER OF MEBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE INCREASED BY FOUR, BRINGING THE TOTAL MEMBER-SHIP TO 9 INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN. THE PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES THERE WOULD BE NO ALTERNATES.

(D) FAO SHOULD CONTINUE TO BEAR THE COST OF TRAVEL AND PER DIEM FOR THE ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS AT SESSIONS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES.

(E) THE COUNCIL WOULD FIRST ELECT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TWO COMMITTEES FROM AMONG THE CANDIDTES SUBMITTED BY THEIR GOVERNMENT.

(F) IN ELECTING THE MEMBERS OF THE TWO COMMITTEES, THE COUNCIL SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THE PRINCIPLE OF SECURING AN EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION ON THE COMMITTEES. TO ENSURE THIS THE WORKING PARTY PROPOSED THAT ELECTIONS TO THESE COMMITTEES BE CONDUCTED IN TWO STAGES. THE FIRST STAGE WOULD BE TO ELECT 8 MEMBERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND 6 MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FROM THE AFRICA, ASIA AND THE FAR EAST, NEAR EAST AND LATIN AMERICAN REGIONS. THE SECOND STAGE WOULD BE TO ELECT 3 MEMBERS OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND 3 MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FROM THE EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND SOUTH WEST PACIFIC REGIONS. THE ABOVE NUMBERS HOULD OF COURSE BE ADJUSTED BY THE APPROPRIATE DEDUCTION TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE REGIONAL AFFILIATION OF THE TWO CHAIRMEN ELECTED.

3. TUSISIA'S PROPOSAL THAT THE FAO COUCNCIL PROPOSE A SINGLE CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR APPOINTMENT BY THE FAO CONFERENCE AND ALSO THAT THE FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL BE ELIGIBLE FOR RE-ELECTION SPLIT THE WORKING PARTY MANY WAYS. SOME FAVORED BOTH PROPOSALS BUT EMPHASIZED THE RE-ELECTION TERM WAS A DIFFICULT QUESTION (U.S. AND OTHERS), SOME FAVORED ONLY THE POSSIBLITY OF RE-ELECTION, SOME QUESTIONED BOTH PROPOSALS, AND SOME HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS AND DIDN'T WANT TO RECOMMEND

ANYTHING. THE REPORT DESCRIBED THESE VARIOUS VIEWS AND THEN THE MAJORITY ASKED THE FAO SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSALS FOR THE 71ST COUNCIL.

4. AN INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE FAO COUNCIL SPLIT THE WORKING GROUP INTO SIX DIFFERENT PROPOSALS VARYING FROM 42 (THE U.S. AND ASIA) TO 53. FINALLY THE REPORT NOTED THAT NO CONSENSUS COULD BE REACHED BUT, WITHOUT COMMITTING THEIR COUNTRIES OR REGIONS, THE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY THOUGHT THAT IF THE COUNCIL WISHED TO IMPROVE ITS GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION, THE FORMULA WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE COUNCIL TO FIND MORE EASILY A SOLUTION WAS THE PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL OF 49 MEMBERS, AN INCREASE OF 7 DIVIDED 3 TO AFRICA, 1 TO ASIA, 1 TO EUROPE 1 TO NEAR EAST, AND 1 TO LATIN AMERICA.

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5. THE REPORT ENDS LAMELY WITH A LISTING OF SEVERAL POINTS THE WORKING PARTY DID NOT HAVE TIME TO CONSIDER. THE REPORT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AS A COUNCIL DOCUMENT IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

6. COMMENT: THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FEELS VERY STRONGLY ABOUT CHANGING THE FAO RULES TO ALLOW FOR HIS RE-ELECTION AND IN TIME MOST MEMBER STATES MAY BE EXPECTED TO FAVOR SUCH A CHANGE. IT IS MORE QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THIS AUTHORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THE COUNCIL. ALL THE OTHER ISSUES, EXCEPT MAYBE REGIONAL CONFERENCES, WILL NEED TO

BE LABORIOUSLY REDISCUSSSED IN THE 71ST FAO COUNCIL WHERE THERE WILL BE NO OVERWHELMING MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF ANY SPECIFIC ACTION AND IN FACT THE U.S. IS LESS ISOLATED THAN BEFORE IN ITS SUPPORT OF THE STATUS QUO.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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